

## BOOK REVIEW

GINA DONOVAN, WITH STEPHEN D. LANGE AND ADRIAN F. VAN DELLEN. 2009. **Neches River User Guide**. (ISBN 978-1603441384, pbk.). Texas A&M University Press, John H. Lindsey Building, 4354 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-4354, U.S.A. (**Orders:** [www.tamu.edu/upress](http://www.tamu.edu/upress), 1-800-826-8911). \$17.95, 83 pp., 72 color photos, 40 color maps, 5 b&w photos, 18 tables, 5 1/2" × 8 1/2".

The Neches River follows a leisurely course through a large portion of Texas' scarce public lands, both current and future, and privately owned land. The *Neches River User Guide* is a project of the Texas Conservation Alliance and educates readers as to the myriad ways this river can be enjoyed. The guide follows the river south from Lake Palestine Dam to the Downtown Dock & Lawn in Beaumont.

Printed in portrait format, the guide is meant to be used spine up, principally to facilitate use of the maps section, thus users can flip through it and easily view the maps, illustrations, and a GPS coordinates chart. Each segment has two maps that "reveal the towns, roads, entry points, bridges, public lands, parks, and other landmarks along nearly 360 miles of the river's course." One map offers a quick overview of the segment of the river covered and shows its relationship to local communities and points of interest. The larger and more detailed map shows "practical information about public access points, potential hazards, camping facilities, and GPS coordinates for points of interest" along the river.

Also included is a "brief description of the archeology and history of human habitation along the river, as well as photographs of plants and animals common in the bottomland hardwood ecosystem." Descriptions of conservation efforts seek to invoke in readers a feeling of stewardship for the river so that it may be enjoyed by all for years to come.

Printed on waterproof paper, the *Neches River User Guide* is a handy, pocket-sized, and sturdy map guide for everyone who wants to experience the Neches River first-hand—campers, paddlers, birders, hikers, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts in general. Recommended for all public libraries and collections that have an interest in riverine studies, ecology, and leisure activities in Texas.

Gina Donovan is executive director of the Houston Audubon Society. Co-founder of the East Texas Forest & Wildlife Coalition, she also served on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Rivers Conservation Advisory Board. Stephen D. Lange is a Regional GIS Specialist for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's Wildlife Division in Tyler, Texas. Adrian F. Van Dellen, DVM, is a retired United States Air Force pathologist and an avid canoer and nature photographer.—Gary Jennings, Librarian, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.